

National:

Cancer Control Month

Prevent Child Abuse Month

National Donate Life Month

Pima County School Retirees' Association

April, 2017

We welcome all retired school employees

Teaching Values with Tales as Old as Time



President's Desk

~ Ann Reaban



Over eons of time, children in places all over the world have grown up listening to wonderful tales of magic and mystery. Interwoven in these stories are the all-important values and beliefs so essential for knowing how life works: truth, patience, respect, love.

Children learn of the beautiful young girl tormented by her vain and calculating stepfamily called Cendrillon in France, Aschenputtel in Germany, Cencrentola in Italy, and Cinderella in English-speaking countries. This story reflects the local culture and customs from China to Nigeria, Poland to Iraq, and Zimbabwe to Greece showing how this young girl escapes from unfortunate circumstances with triumph of good over evil.

Each girl, no matter the age, lives with the hope that, "One Day My Prince Will Come." She also learns that proper shoes are a must... A beautiful tale, but one in which the girl lets "magic" do most of the heavy lifting.

Not so in "Beauty & the Beast..." It is true that magic certainly plays a part in this tale. An arrogant, selfish Prince has an unfortunate meeting with the enchantress dressed as an old hag who does not appreciate selfishness nor arrogance... hence the "Beast get-up" for all eternity unless the Prince learns to love and find a love in return before the last petal of the rose dies. (Think about the last time you received roses... did they last?)

Enter spunky, independent little Belle who loves to read in a time when reading was not highly valued. There is, of course, living in her little village, Gaston, a handsome, conceited fellow who is arrogant enough to insist that Belle must marry him. With a flourish, he is rejected. Belle's father asks what she wanted from the market. "Only a rose, dear Father." The shopping trip turns into a disaster with evil wolves, a haunted castle, and a beast who doesn't approve of plucking his roses. Spunky Belle rushes to rescue her missing father and agrees to take his place in the creepy castle *forever*.

The loyal servants: Luminaire, a singing armoire, a clock, a singing tea pot and cup are all pulling for the Prince to find his true love... Belle is kind to the beast even when he slurps his soup and roars loudly. There is the magical dance when Beast and Belle find that love is in the air. Out of kindness and love, the Beast allows Belle to have her freedom. She chooses to rush home to help her father who is in big trouble. Gaston tells lies to arouse the mob mentality, chanting "Kill the Beast! Kill the Beast!"

The story ends with Belle looking beyond the fearsome Beast to find her true love. The Beast has transformed his selfishness and arrogance into patience and kindness. The servants are just happy to be human again. And it doesn't hurt to have opera singer Audra McDonald singing the beloved "Tale as Old as Time," to wrap things up.

See **Teaching Values** on Page 2



March Report

PCSRA Membership: 189

AASRA Membership: 92

Scholarship Fund: \$1,941.12

May 11th Luncheon Viscount Suite Hotel

End-of-the-Year Potpourri

\$19.00 each Postmark by May 3 to:
PCSRA Reservations, 4315 E. Seneca St., 85712.

Menu: Chicken Milanese, Wild Rice Pilaf, Vegetable Medley, Rolls, and Chocolate Decadence Cake

Name _____

Guest _____

PCSRA May Luncheon to Wrap Up a Very Good Year

Join the celebration of the PCSRA "End-of-the-Year Potpourri." The Luncheon will be held at the Viscount Suites at 4855 E. Broadway Blvd. on May 11, 2017 at 12:00 to 2:00.

Proposed Changes to PCSRA's Constitution Specify Intentions

The membership will vote on the addition (Sec. 6.) and change (Sec. 2.) at the April Luncheon.

Article II. – Objectives

Sec. 6. To encourage activities for lifelong learning.

Article XI. – Dissolution

Sec. 2. Upon dissolution of the association, its assets shall be distributed to the University of Arizona College of Education Alumni Council's Dean John L. Taylor Scholarship Fund.

Teaching Values continued from Page 1

Why did Hollywood choose this time to bring attention to this particular fairy tale? Time Magazine brings up the importance of the story of young George Washington who bravely admitted chopping down the cherry tree, which was read by generations of American children. Young people learn through this story that it was important to accept responsibility for one's actions. I feel that the children of today need fables and life situations which stress the importance of values and beliefs, so that these ideals may be incorporated into their own lives.

So should the values from these old-fashioned folk tales once again be presented to the children of today? This would be in direct contrast to the half-truths, alternative truths, mob mentality, marches and shouting that our children see on television nowadays.

Are we giving this generation an opportunity to learn and appreciate the values of: Truth, Justice, Kindness, Respect, and Love of Home, Family, and Country?

Ann Reaban



Holmes to Be AASRA Head Honcho

PCSRA's Jerry Holmes has been nominated for AASRA President-Elect for the 2017-2019 membership years. He will then become President for 2019-2021. Jerry has served the State Board as the District Six V.P. and as a valuable member of the AASRA Legislative Team these past two years.

Born and raised in Tucson, Jerry began working in education after his 30th birthday. He chose the field because of his passion for educating students and he heard he would get three months off every summer. He pursued more education during his summer breaks attaining a Master's degree and an administrative certification. After a thirty-year career as a teacher and middle school administrator (mostly in TUSD), as well as six years of retirement, Jerry is still waiting for those three consecutive months of vacation.

His focus remains on high quality public education for AZ kids. He advocates for appropriate compensation and conditions for practicing educators as well as support for school employees in their retirement. When he is not actively engaged in advocacy, Jerry enjoys exploring the cultures, back-roads and hidden trails of the Southwest and the rest of the world.

Jerry will speak at the 2017 AASRA State Convention in Phoenix about pension protection on both national and local levels. He has attended AARP events in Washington, DC, to prepare himself for this major effort. Check your local and state newsletters or the AASRA.org website for more details.

We thank Jerry for his willingness to accept this leadership role to help AASRA President Roger Tabar in the next two years.

A Day at Empire Ranch



Jim Marr, Terry Bagwell, Stewart Bagwell, Tom Arthur, Karen Powell, and Barbara Macpherson take five.

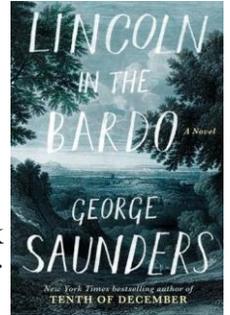


A good-natured donkey waits patiently for its rider.



Riders ready themselves to hit the trail. Over 40 people explored the rambling ranch from horseback that day.

PCSRA Book Club Addresses Lincoln



Our second PCSRA Book Club meeting had even more energy than the first! We discussed the UA Book Festival, current events, life, and our latest learning experiences. We also reviewed several books for future consideration. Two new people joined us this time. Consider this your open invitation to enjoy a lively conversation about literature and life!

Our selection for reading is Lincoln in the Bardo by George Saunders. The setting is Lincoln's mourning in the crypt of his deceased son, Willie. Several spirits have stories to share in hopes of returning to life. The spirits give voice to thoughts on parenthood, patriotism, race and death. The common bond is for Lincoln to return, modeling a living loved one who does not abandon the deceased. Optimists will find renewed faith in the potential we carry within or the beauty of the world's every detail.

The author, George Saunders, has received much acclaim for his collections of short-stories (published in 1996 and 2013). Lincoln in the Bardo is Saunders' debut novel. The book was clearly written by one who possesses an otherworldly love.

Our next meeting is set for Thursday, April 20th at 1:00 p.m. We will be meeting at Steve Poe's home, at 3331 E. Waverly St. (east of Country Club) between Pima and Grant. Please contact Jim Marr by email if you have any questions – jbm500@cox.net.



Education News

~ Jerry Holmes

Schools, Staffing, and Scholarship

It's Still All about the Money

The salaries for Arizona's teachers continue to cause concern among teachers and district administrators. Arizona school districts find it hard to compete in hiring teachers with districts in nearby western states for a number of reasons. Starting salary in Arizona varies widely from district to district, from \$27,000 to over \$40,000. The Arizona Education Association uses the figure of \$34,000 as average starting pay in Arizona.

How does Arizona compare with other states?

Our next door neighbor, New Mexico, offers similar starting salaries to Arizona in many districts, but the salary schedule accelerates more quickly there with average salaries for teachers at over \$47,000. Arizona's average teacher salary is pegged at \$45,477 in one report and \$46,384 in another. Average salaries in Texas are over \$52,000 with starting salaries in some Texas metropolitan districts over \$50,000. Health insurance offerings for teachers and their families in other western states are often cheaper than Arizona as well. All of this makes it easy for other states to recruit in Arizona and Arizona districts are left shorthanded. Four weeks into this school year there were still over 2,000 unfilled positions. In addition, over 1800 of those teaching at that time were doing so without meeting standard certification requirements for teachers in Arizona and were in the classroom via alternative certifications.

Didn't Governor Ducey just raise teachers' salaries?

Governor Ducey's response is to raise teachers' salaries by 2% OVER FIVE YEARS. That's not 2% per annum; that is less than 1/2 of 1% per year for 5 years. His proposal was characterized as adding less than \$2.00 a week to a teacher's paycheck each year for the next five.

Christine Marsh, the 2016 Arizona Teacher of the Year, told staff members of Gov. Ducey that while she was glad to see Ducey acknowledge the problem, "That's (Ducey's proposal) not going to keep teachers from leaving the profession or leaving the state or trying to do their job while...having other jobs to supplement their income." She went on to say that maybe Ducey's proposal would be counter-productive, "...I'm afraid it's going to have the opposite effect and drive teachers out. If they think to themselves, 'This is what the governor means when he's going to help education. I'm out.'"

Is that it? Can't he do better than that?

Referring to the passage of Prop 123, Gov. Ducey's response to the problem of funding raises was "There's plenty of money in there for additional money for raises for teachers. That will be put on the superintendents and the principals. And I encourage them to give raises across the board." Even State Superintendent of Instruction and fellow Republican Diane Douglas advocates for an allocation of an additional \$140 million to allow for a 5% pay hike for teachers.

Exactly how important are teachers' salaries to Governor Ducey?

Various groups have offered alternative proposals to help increase the raises Arizona teachers so desperately need and certainly deserve. Ducey continues to be unwilling to scrap other proposals in order to raise teacher salaries. One area that Ducey does not want touched is the corporate school tuition tax credit, tax money siphoned off to private and parochial schools, nearly \$62 million this year. In response to a proposal by AZ Schools Now to limit the tax credit, Ducey responded, "We're going to be a leader on school choice, on parental choice. I want kids to have the opportunity to go to the school that is best for them. Arizona has been a model for this. And we're going to continue down this road. There's not going to be a change there."



How would flooding the market affect the demand for raises?

One of Gov. Ducey's proposals in his State of the State address is being followed up with several bills. He proposed changes to make it easier to become a teacher in Arizona. The traditional method requires a program resulting in a bachelor's degree and includes student teaching, passing exams on professional knowledge and the US and Arizona Constitutions and finally achieving a fingerprint clearance. One bill, SB 1039, proposed by Sen. Sylvia Allen would allow school districts to establish their own certification process as long as the applicant has a bachelor's degree and attains fingerprint clearance. SB 1042, also sponsored by Sen. Allen, stipulates that the State Board of Education create "substantially different" routes to certification that would be less restrictive than existing models. It would allow for easier reciprocity with other states and would establish 12 years as the term of certification rather than the current six. SB 1057 introduced by Sen. Gail Griffin allows teachers with at least 10 years of experience whose certificates have lapsed for less than two years to renew without having to jump through additional hoops. Joe Thomas, president of AEA, says that it is not the certification process that is keeping people out of classrooms, but low pay and large class sizes. Chris Kotterman of the Arizona School Board Association claimed that certification is not an issue in the teacher shortage and said, "People don't want to be teachers because they don't get treated very well, they don't get paid very well, and it's a hard job."

Robbing Peter to Pay Paul; Paul Wants His Money Now

Arizona's classroom-focused spending in 2015/16 was at its lowest point since that calculation was first tracked in 2001. The Auditor General's office reported in 2016 that 53.5 cents of every dollar spent on education was spent on expenses related to instruction. That rate is also 7.3 cents below the national average.

One of the reasons for that smaller percentage is that Arizona typically spends a larger percentage of the education dollar on support staff such as counselors, social workers, speech pathologists, nurses, etc. Arizona spends 8.2% on support versus the national average of 5.6%. The Auditor General concedes that may be due to Arizona's high poverty rate of 23% for children versus the national average of 19%.

Chuck Essigs, of the Arizona Education Association, says that another reason is the long-term reduction in Arizona's education spending has led to an enormous amount of deferred maintenance and postponing capital replacement. As those issues become more critical, districts find they must address the issues by dedicating more money to the problems.

Supai Sue State for Students' Short Shrift (Vouchers Won't Help)

In a lawsuit filed against the federal government by the parents of nine students from the small, Native American village of Supai, they claim that their children are deprived of "basic general education". Supai is a reservation village within the Grand Canyon that is inaccessible by car and can only be accessed by helicopter or an eight mile walk or horse ride. A popular backpacker destination because of its beautiful waterfalls and canyon walled scenery, Supai relies on tourists for income and the federal government for support. The parents cite the problems of understaffing, lack of a general education curriculum and inability to provide special education services. The lawsuit claims the local elementary school has been shut for weeks at a time due to staffing issues and "there is no science, history, social studies, foreign language, arts, or physical education curriculum". 2012-13 data shows that only 16% of students from Supai are proficient in reading and 100% are at the basic level of proficiency in math and science. There is no high school available to the students within the canyon village so they must move in order to continue their education and the lawsuit claims the students' lack of proficiency makes them ineligible to attend most high schools.



Legislative News

~ Jerry Holmes



Governor Ducey Applies 1000th Cut to Public Education in AZ

On April 6, the Arizona legislature passed and Gov. Ducey signed a bill that expanded Arizona's

Empowerment Scholarship Accounts (vouchers) to include all public school children in Arizona. Originally proposed by Sen. Debbie Lesko, the new law will grant a gift of over \$5000 to any family that wants to move their child to another school, public or private.

Couched as a method to help children of needy families attend schools that are not failing, the bill actually will mostly benefit more well off families. Studies show that those families will withdraw their students from public schools and use the voucher so that their children can attend tuition-based private schools. Studies also show that vouchers increase the percentage of special needs children in public schools because charter and private schools are free to tell parents that they cannot meet the needs of their child, whereas public schools are mandated to meet those needs. Studies have also shown that the legislation will increase the segregation of schools in Arizona.

Sen. David Bradley proposed an amendment to the bill that would require that any child that receives a voucher be subject to standardized testing. That amendment was defeated in committee. Thus, there is no accountability attached to the money the state will spend. Gov. Ducey promoted the bill, with political threats to its opponents, as a means to expand choice for families. In reality, the legislation increases profits for the owners of private schools and gives public money to religious institutions. Cash-starved public schools are going to be poorer than ever as a result of this new law.

... vouchers increase the percentage of special needs children in public schools...

Senator Lesko Wants Districts to Spend Money Creating Paperwork to Defend How They Spend the Money They Would Have Already Spent if the State had Given Them the Money in the First Place

State Sen. Debbie Lesko has sponsored a bill that would require public and charter schools to account for the money they receive from Prop 123. The original proposition contained no such clause requiring districts or schools to account for their expenditures. Prop 123 was proposed as a response to a Supreme Court ruling saying that Arizona had been underfunding education for years. Proposition 301, passed in 2000 called for an inflationary adjustment to schools funding each year. During the recession the legislature refused to fund the inflationary factor which ultimately led to a suit by schools against the legislature charging non-compliance with state law. Ultimately, the courts ruled in favor of the schools and the legislature dug its heels in refusing to increase funding or make up any past amounts not allocated.

Sen. Lesko, among others, refuses to admit that the legislature erred in any way by not complying with the Prop 301 stipulation. As recently as March 21 of this year she acknowledged that Prop 123 was a settlement, but declined to say the settlement was the result of any illegal action by the legislature. She refuses to accept the Supreme Court ruling that schools were owed the money. Gov. Ducey seems to be of a similar mind, still contentiously referring to the basis of the lawsuit in his 2017 State of the State address. Sen. Lesko and some other legislators maintain the referendum was passed as the result of promises that the funds would go to raises for teachers. Schools argue that the needs created by years of underfunding require that deferred maintenance and capital funding programs must be addressed as well. Currently, Prop 123 funding is included in the overall lump sum allocation to schools and is not considered as a separate entity. Sen. Lesko says that would have to change so that the accountability she desires could be attained.

Rep. Reginald Bolding responded that Sen. Lesko was "...asking for more accountability that's already there, on money that you already owe."

in the land of healing

*two hemispheres
in this land of ultimate possibility
in the darkness of a wounded heart*

*a billowing cloud tries on
colors like a fickle shopper
a bold moon hangs
like a Christmas ornament in the eastern sky
a baby's cries evaporate
with each gentle caress and lullaby
a mother wraps
her good-night arms around her little boy
a husband hands
his wife flowers just because
a lover's kiss lingers
because she didn't have to read his mind
in this hemisphere there's no fear . . .*

peter m. bourret

(abbreviated version from The Physics of War)



Poetry Corner

“The Features of Creatures: Animals A-Z”

*S. the Scorpion, silent and small,
In the trees, rocks, and sand he can crawl.
He has venom to strike,
In a stinger's sharp spike,
So stay out of his way one and all!*

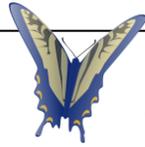
Limerick by . . . Bonnie Formentini

The Collection Plate

*One fairly rich rancher went to church one Sunday.
As he passed the preacher, he just had to say,
“That was a damned good sermon you gave today!”
“I'm happy you liked it,” said the preacher. “But I do pray
You wouldn't use those terms in expressing yourself today.”*

*“I can't help it,” said the rancher in reply.
“I still think it was a damned good sermon for you to try.
In fact, I liked it so much I could hardly wait
To put a hundred dollar bill in the collection plate.”
There wasn't a twinkle in the rancher's eye.
So “The hell you did?!” was the preacher's reply.*

... Bill Black



Farewell

Alamo, Guillermo (63) ~ 3/1; Teacher
Aragon, Abraham (69) ~ 3/19; Teacher, Principal TUSD
Ashcraft, Jane (96) ~ 2/15; Secretary, Magee Jr. High
Bahill, Karen Ann (70) ~ 2/7; Librarian, Tucson-Pima
Black, Marcia (80) ~ 3/15; School Counselor
Brady, Patricia (79) ~ 3/23; Teacher Aide
Brey, Carol (91) ~ 3/22; Teacher
Bundy, Jane (84) ~ 2/13; Teacher
Bunker, Carey (93) ~ 2/16; Teacher, TUSD

Citrin, Mark (70) ~ 2/14; Administrator
Clark, Mary Ann (?) ~ 3/18; Secretary, Sahuarita
Curtis, Margaret (92) ~ (?); Teacher
DeLuca, Denise (74) ~ 2/5; Administrator
Dettloff, John (81) ~ 1/17; Computer Teacher

Dite, Victoria (38) ~ 3/4; Teacher
Doering, Patricia (79) ~ 3/16; Teacher
Doten, Harry (78) ~ 3/9; Teacher
Franklin, Carlene (70) ~ 2/21; Counselor
Guldner, Carol (91) ~ 3/1; Secretary
Gyllenhaal, Linda (?) ~ (?); Teacher
Harmon, Patricia (62) ~ 3/26; Teacher

Heilman, Richard (68) ~ 3/9; Science Teacher
Hine, Patricia (87) ~ 2/14; Reading Tutor

Kearney, Susan (72) ~ 3/19;
 Administrative Assistant

McAnally, Beverly (66) ~ 3/4; Professor
Montgomery, Donna (75) ~ 2/15; Secretary

Nicholas, Sharon (67) ~ 3/13; Teacher
Ogren, Mary (91) ~ 3/1; Pre-School Teacher

O'Sullivan, Kathryn (69) ~ 3/2; Teacher

Rankin, James (84) ~ 3/19; Professor

Rauh, Patricia (82) ~ 3/23; Teacher

Roberts, Joan (86) ~ 3/9; Library Assistant

Roybal, Fred (78) ~ 3/21; Teacher, Coach

Rupert, Peggie Ruth (84) ~ 3/3; Teacher

Scarr, LaVerde (84) ~ 3/21; Superintendent

Torres, David (52) ~ 3/9; Teacher

Waesch, Herbert (91) ~ 2/28;
 Asst. Superintendent TUSD

Wallace, Bonnie (72) ~ 3/17;
 Administrative Assistant

* **Warner**, Erma (99) ~ 3/17; Teacher

White, Jeryl (94) ~ 3/22; Teacher

White, Loraine (88) ~ 2/5; Educator



Friends



Colleagues



Mentors



We include deaths of all known school employees.

PCSRA members are noted with an asterisk.

Legislative Neglect Has Hobbled Arizona State Retirement System

The Board of Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS) consists of nine seats. The Board has been unable to conduct significant business since November 2016 because there have been only four sitting board members who lack the quorum necessary to conduct official business. The inability to conduct business is so dire that the March Board of Trustees' meeting and the Investment Committee meeting were cancelled.

That means that oversight of the \$35.5 billion fund is left exclusively to its director, Paul Matson. Matson says that he does seek the advice of the remaining board members even though he can make the allocation decisions by himself. With the advice and consent of the shorthanded board he has been managing, but says that he would like the luxury of official oversight.

During the past two years Gov. Ducey has named several individuals to the board, but they have never officially been confirmed by the Senate; so, by law, they were forced to leave the board. State Sen. Steve Farley notes that Gov. Ducey seems to be focusing on judicial appointments and said, "You'd think he would use that same amount of speed to try to take care of nest eggs of Arizona employees".



AASRA State Convention Registration Form

June 6-7, 2017

Four Points by Sheraton Phoenix North
2532 W. Peoria Ave., Phoenix, AZ 85029

Please Print.

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____
8-digit

Email _____ Phone _____

Unit Name _____ Name you want on nametag _____

Is this the first AASRA State Convention that you have ever attended? yes no (Circle one.)

Circle whether or not you plan to attend the following events:

Tuesday June 6th

Wednesday, June 7th

Breakfast yes no
Luncheon yes no
Banquet & entertainment yes no

Breakfast yes no

Please indicate special needs: diabetic____ vegetarian____ mobility____ hearing____ other (please specify)_____

TOTAL CONVENTION COST	\$60.00	\$ _____
COST FOR GUEST ATTENDING THE BANQUET ONLY	\$35.00	\$ _____
TOTAL COST		\$ _____

Hotel Accommodations:	1-2 guests per room	\$79.00/night
	3 guests per room	\$89.00/night
	4 guests per room	\$99.00/night

Do you plan to stay at the hotel during the convention? yes no **If so, which nights?** _____

For hotel reservations, please call Four Point by Sheraton Phoenix North (602-943-2341). Please refer to group name All Arizona School Retirees Association when making your reservation in order to receive the special rates listed above. The deadline for make hotel reservations at these special rates is May 5th.

Convention registration deadline is Wednesday, May 24th.

Mail your completed registration form and check made payable to AASRA to:

Sue Secrest, 12986 S. 177 Lane, Goodyear, AZ 85338-5792

For those who plan to arrive for the convention on Monday, June 5th, we will be having dinner at 5:30 p.m. at Garcia's Mexican Restaurant located at 3301 West Peoria Avenue. Individual checks will be provided for our convenience. An 18% gratuity will be added to the total. If you plan to join us for this event, please RSVP to Sandra Marshall by phone or email: 623-972-4202 or azsandy123@cox.net.

Treasurer's use only: Check number _____ Amount received _____ Date received _____